

# SANTA ANA COLLEGE

## on frIDAY

Charlotte's Web, the musical, runs from Dec. 10-19 in the Phillips Hall Theatre. Some nights are already sold out. For tickets and information, call 564-5661.

# el Don

## INSIDE:

1999 has been a monumental year for the soccer, cross country and wrestling teams. For details on the Dons' success, check out our Sports Extra.



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17TH AT BRISTOL STREET, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92706

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1999

# Red Cross rejects gay student donor

By Ann Shogren  
el Don Staff Writer

Santa Ana College student government officers drafted a resolution threatening to no longer sponsor the American Red Cross, accusing them of discrimination based on sexual orientation, as well as violating a student's right to privacy.

This could mean an end to campus blood drives, hosted by the Associated Student Government, unless the Red Cross "actions are corrected to reflect the best interest of the entire Santa Ana College student body."

"Blood drives are run every fall and spring semester. I don't know if we'll have

one next spring. That depends on the Red Cross," said ASG president Hector Garibay.

The resolution, which has not been finalized, was written as a result of Jorge Diaz' complaint regarding an incident at the Oct. 29 blood drive.

*"It's not the school's fault. I don't want to attack the Red Cross or the FDA, but I think it's wrong to isolate a gay student and make them feel uncomfortable."*

-Jorge Diaz  
Santa Ana College Student



Diaz, who is openly gay, completed the required donor history questionnaire, but during his confidential interview with a Red Cross staff member, was told he could not donate blood. His "Yes" response to a question asking if he has had sex, even once, with another male since 1977 caused

his deferral, he was told. This led to a confrontation between a Red Cross nurse and Diaz.

"The whole staff was watching us have this big argument. I never had this happen before," Diaz said.

A witness to this incident, David Tahan, Phi Theta Kappa Club vice-president was standing 15-20 feet away from Diaz and the nurse at the time of the confrontation, and was easily able to overhear what was being said, as were a number of people who had gathered to watch.

Please see BLOOD, Page 3

• Read Diaz' letter to the editor, Page 10.

Ong Yang, 14, and Diane Xiong, 11, perform a traditional Hmong dance.



## A NEW YEAR ON THANKSGIVING

Story by Dawnielle Peck  
Photos by Sandahl Ball

About 1,500 people gathered at Santa Ana College over Thanksgiving weekend to celebrate Hmong New Year.

Most Hmong are Laotian and one of the nation's largest populations resides in Orange County.

This was the fifth year SAC sponsored the three day celebration featuring traditional dance, music, dress, food and drink.

"It's a time for the elderly to come and socialize...and for the young people to find their loved one," explained Chongge Vang, chairman of the Hmong New Year committee. "Most people get married after the New Year."

Hmong New Year is the only formal holiday Laotians observe, and there is no actual date for the festival because, historically, it was held as harvest demands required.

This year, SAC waived the \$2,600 festival fee. "We are very thankful," Chongge said. "We are a young and poor community."



Chue Yang Vang, 3, wears traditional Hmong clothing at the New Year's festival held at Santa Ana College on Nov. 25-27.



## [ christophe lo ]

“  
I've sacrificed my  
study time, but  
that's why I joined  
government - to  
work hard.  
”



DAWNIELLE PECK el Don

## VITAL STATS

- The 20-year-old was born in Belgium.
- Has traveled to China, Turkey, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Hawaii and South America.
- Was senator of social science and humanities at Santiago Canyon College last semester.
- Likes John Grisham books *The Firm* and *Rainmaker*.

## STAY 'LO' AND KEEP MOVING

By Christie Menzel  
el Don Staff Writer

Christophe Lo's world travels have prepared him for life's challenges, including balancing the ASG budget.

He's traveled a long, bumpy road to get where he is today. Christophe Lo, Associated Student Government treasurer and Belgium-native, has seen many places in his days - each one leaving a mark on his personality.

The 20-year-old Taiwanese world traveler has resided in and visited China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South America, before making his home in the United States.

His past struggles have caused him to become involved in school and motivated him to make a difference in society.

When he was 8-years-old he faced the first pothole in his path: his parents' divorce. "My mother divorced my father because he gambled too much," Lo said bluntly. Hoping to create a better life together, his mother moved them to French Guiana in South America, where they lived for six months.

The education system was not what they had

expected. "The public schools over there are crazy," said Lo. "There are so many protests going on.... students are upset because there isn't enough bread or books, and they want better teachers."

Lo later moved to Suriname where he attended a private school called Christian Liberty Academy. Because private school tuition was so high, Lo enrolled in a work program that allowed him to perform janitorial duties to pay for his tuition.

Lo then moved to Taiwan where he studied Mandarin for one year. During that time he visited Turkey, China, Hong Kong and Hawaii. "My mom liked to travel a lot," he said smiling.

After studying Chinese, Lo moved back to Suriname and worked hard to finish high school. He took summer school classes and after completing 7th grade, skipped to 9th grade.

Soon after graduating from Christian Liberty Academy, Lo returned solo to his homeland where he hoped to build a better future. He tried to join the Belgium Royal Air Force, but was unable to pass the test because he was not flu-

ent in Dutch.

"I ended up having to stay with my mom's friend... I spent six months sleeping on her floor," he said. "I thought I was dead... I didn't know where I was going."

Lo looked to the United States as the next possibility.

"I called my aunt who lives in Orange County and came to America to stay with her and my uncle," he explained.

After his uncle's recommendation, Lo started attending SAC in the summer of 1998.

His interest in learning motivated him to become involved in student government.

Lo said because student government didn't exist in other schools he had attended, he wanted to get involved. "You did what the teachers told you and you didn't ask questions," he said.

He attended to Santiago Canyon College to serve as senator of social science and humanities and was commissioner of environmental awareness last spring.

Lo then turned his attention to the treasurer position at SAC when he learned of the open-

Please see **TREASURER**, Page 4

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## Blood:

Continued from page 1

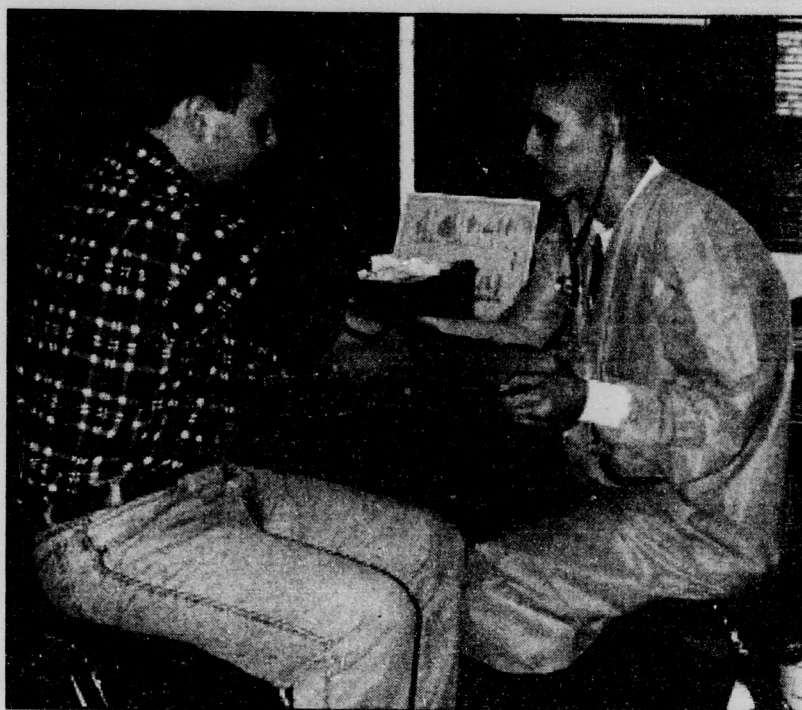
"Then the senior supervisor came over, and it wasn't so much what she said but the intonation that she had. She (told Diaz he couldn't donate) 'because you're gay and gay people are a lot more prone to AIDS,'" Tahan said. "He seemed to take offense to that. I kind of took offense to that, too." Tahan said the supervisor threatened to call the police if Diaz didn't leave, as he continued to ask questions about the policy. "Definitely her presentation was just pitiful," he said.

According to Bonnie Singleton, associate collections director of the American Red Cross Blood Services, Southern California Region, the nurse involved said "his confidentiality was never breached."

Singleton said all potential donors are given a brochure, titled "What You Must Know Before Giving Blood" and are required to read it before completing the questionnaire.

When Singleton spoke to Diaz after the incident and asked whether he had read the brochure before completing his questionnaire, she reported that Diaz said he had but the information did not pertain to him.

Diaz denied receiving a brochure. "I read through everything I was given, and it didn't say anything about not being able to do-



Red Cross staff member Jesse Selgado takes Juan Cervantes' blood pressure at the Oct. 29 blood drive. The organization is accused of violating a student's privacy.

nate. I would have walked right out without filling out the card if I had that information."

Tahan said donors were not given an information brochure at the blood drive. He said there was a large laminated card that had some general information regarding certain diseases, age and weight limits, but that it did not say that a male who had sex with another male could not donate.

The Red Cross sent an apology to Diaz in a subsequent letter dated Nov. 24, assuring him that the staff members involved would receive a formal reprimand and counseling.

Then on Dec. 1, prior to the publication of this article, the Red

Cross issued a formal statement: "American Red Cross Blood Services, Southern California Region is currently investigating the allegations expressed in the el Don article. Disciplinary and corrective action will be taken if staff violated any procedure or compromised donor confidentiality. The American Red Cross welcomes legitimate concerns and always strives to make donating blood a positive and rewarding experience."

Diaz wants to ensure this doesn't happen to another student. "It's not the school's fault. I don't want to attack the Red Cross or the FDA, but I think it's wrong to isolate a gay student and

make them feel uncomfortable," he said.

Because of FDA guidelines for blood donation and blood bank regulation, no one can be deferred simply because they are gay. The uniform donor history card, developed in collaboration with the American Association of Blood Banks, has a list of 37 questions, which a "yes" answer to any of them could prohibit an individual from donating blood.

A myriad of reasons disqualify potential donors from giving blood, including receiving a tattoo or body piercing in the last 12 months, to those with direct exposure to HIV. Therefore, the Red Cross nurse who told Diaz that because he was gay, and part of the most common group to get AIDS, was in error.

Blood banks test all of the blood they receive, but the cost of testing, between \$100 and \$200 per unit of blood, is very expensive. Thus the donor history questionnaire is used to screen potential high risk donors.

The second issue raised by Diaz' experience, is the possible violation of privacy that occurred when Diaz' life-style was discussed in a public argument.

According to the FDA, it is a federal violation for an organization to breach the privacy of an individual during the confidential interview. Many of the questions on the donor history card are of a sensitive nature, and if the Red Cross broke Diaz' privacy, they violated FDA guidelines, and could be cited for

such, according to an anonymous source in the FDA.

"All of the Red Cross staff are highly trained, and they observe confidentiality in the medical history area by bringing in radios for (background) noise. The staff is trained to hold confidential interviews with participants and fellow nurses," said Red Cross spokesperson Rebecca Long.

Diaz sent a three-page report of the incident to several people on campus, including Dr. Rita Cepeda, SAC president.

"I received a copy of the issues from Jorge Diaz, and requested a meeting with him. He has reason to be upset. I find (this incident) to be unacceptable," she said.

The district has a wide array of guidelines pertaining to students' privacy rights regarding their grades and personal information, she said.

"The bottom line is dignity, the right to privacy for students," Cepeda said. "We need to respect the rights of students. Jorge doesn't need to feel like he is alone in this. We will be reviewing the school's policies, and what needs to be done to ensure confidentiality."

With reference to future blood drives, "It is standard practice for us to have blood drives here on campus. The Red Cross is here by invitation, and they rely on us to add to the blood supply. I plan on writing a letter to the Red Cross, letting them know they need to respect the rights of all students," Cepeda said.

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## Treasurer:

Continued from page 2

ing early this semester.

"He ran a good campaign.... he was smart and stayed all election day passing out candies with his name on them, telling people to vote for him," said Eric Kimball, Supreme Court Chief Justice.

Basel Alderi, senator of performing arts was impressed with Lo's dedication.

"He's doing a great job as treasurer... he came in and cleaned up the budget after a week," Alderi said.

Alderi spoke of the problems the budget acquired, because of the lack of a treasurer last semester.

Lo has worked to revise and balance the budget, since his election to the position.

"I'm still working on fixing it," Lo humbly said.

"I've sacrificed my study time, but that's why I joined government- to work hard," he said.

"I'm going to make sure that by next spring, student government will run smoothly with out problems," Lo boldly said.

He plans to transfer to a California State University in the spring of 2001, majoring in business finance.

After graduating, Lo hopes to save enough money to travel Turkey, as well as to South America to visit his mom.

# 38 graduate from fire academy

**EDUCATION:** Santa Ana College's fire technology program continues its 37 year tradition of excellence with the graduation of the 112th Fire Academy.

By Michael Ziobrowski  
el Don Staff Writer

Since 1962 Santa Ana College has been adding able-bodied men and women to the ranks of fire fighters throughout California and other parts of the world.

This year, 38 graduates of SAC's fire technology program joined fire departments in Los Angeles, Colorado, Arizona and the California Division of Forestry.

Of the 42 students in the program, 38 of them met the scholastic and physical requirements demanded of participants. Their reward was the presentation of their certificates of graduation.

Graduation ceremonies for the 112th Basic Fire Academy, complete with a 13-piece bagpipe band and color guard, were held at the school gymnasium on Nov. 20.

"This is not selling shoes," said Richard Keller, deputy chief of the fire academy. "They (students) want to be able to say that they completed a tough and rigorous program."

The two-year program entails 2,000 hours of work to exercise both the mind and body. Students must receive a grade of C or better in eight core classes and pass a physical ability exam, as mandated by the National Fire Protection Agency.

The first year of the program consists of



SANDRA L. BALL el Don  
Deputy Chief Richard Keller displays the 112th basic fire academy's seal.

classes such as fire protection organization, fire behavior and combustion, personal fire safety and fire prevention technology, along with four others. In the second year of the program students are trained to use fire fighting equipment.

Since proper use of breathing apparatuses and protective gear can mean the difference between life and death for the fire fighter and those being rescued, stu-

dents are left with no room for mistakes.

"Past graduates have called our program the Marine boot camp of fire training," said Keller. "They must meet stiff requirements."

Upon completion of classes, participants receive certificates in Emergency Medical Technology, CPR, Fire Control and five other areas.

SAC's program is viewed highly by departments throughout the state of California.

"We've been told we have the best program going by chiefs who have both seen and bought our product," Keller said.

Participants hold the program in high regards as well.

"Lots of graduates come back and say how much they enjoy it," Keller said. "They like the camaraderie involved, the friendships, the challenges and excitement."

The 114th Basic Fire Academy began in November and will continue through March.

The Fire Technology office is located in Hammond Hall, room H-107.

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## Intersession returns for its second year with few changes

**CAMPUS:** Compacted classes during the winter break challenge students mentally but hurry the graduation process.

By Theresa Salinas  
el Don Views Editor

The Rancho Santiago Community College District made history last year when it became the only district in the county to offer classes during the traditional winter break. The trend continues this winter - but with a few twists.

More than 150 courses, ranging from counseling to philosophy, will be held at Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon colleges from Jan. 3 to 28.

That's an increase from the 130 courses offered last year. The subjects have also changed - more general education classes are available this year and some specialized classes have been omitted.

"In our first year we offered a variety of courses...This year we've increased the number of core classes and decreased the number of personal interest classes. It gives students an opportunity to increase course work and be that much further ahead," said John Nixon, vice president of academic affairs.

About 3,200 students enrolled in intersession 1999. A district-sponsored survey found that 69 percent of enrolled students said they would take an intersession course again. Other survey comments included

complaints about limited library and computer lab hours, and an overload of outside group work and homework. Others suggested that course structure be specific to four-week classes, not just a recap of material.

These suggestions were forwarded to district administrators, but no concrete changes will be made. Nixon said that regular service hours of the library, Don Express and computer lab will not be changed. He also said that course material will not be changed, because short courses cover the same lessons as 16-week classes.

"Someone interested in enrolling should

think about their ability and time. Unless they have the time and attention to commit to the class, it could be difficult," Nixon said.

Courses are targeted at community college students looking to accrue units, and their university counterparts who need to complete undergraduate courses.

"These courses are good for the student that desires to complete a class in a short amount of time and has the time and energy to do it. It speeds the educational process along," Nixon said.

SAC student Oscar Pedroza, 19, will take Geography 101 during intersession. He said that courses during winter break allow him to complete classes that he couldn't take during the summer session.

*"Someone interested in enrolling should think about their ability and time. Unless they have the time and attention to commit to the class, it could be difficult."*

*-John Nixon  
Vice President of  
Academic Affairs*

"I got a part-time job at a doctor's office and didn't have time to go to school," he said.

But Pedroza is skeptical of taking difficult classes in such a short amount of time. "They're a good idea but I don't think that math, English or biology classes are a good idea - that's too much pressure, too much information for four weeks," he said.

Not only do intersession classes provide students the opportunity to amass credits in a shorter amount of time, they also increase the district's classroom usage rate. Board of Trustees member Phil Yarbrough said that courses taught during winter and summer sessions allow students to take classes at off-peak times, increasing the amount

of room available for students to enroll in traditional semester-long classes. This helps the district brace for Tidal Wave II, a predicted increase of over 700,000 college students into state community colleges and universities over the next decade.

With the addition of intersession to the district's calendar, semesters have been rescheduled. In 1999 and 2000, spring semesters started one week later than previous years.

The winter classes have had little effect on traditional enrollment trends. Nixon said that both spring and fall 1999 terms showed an enrollment increase.

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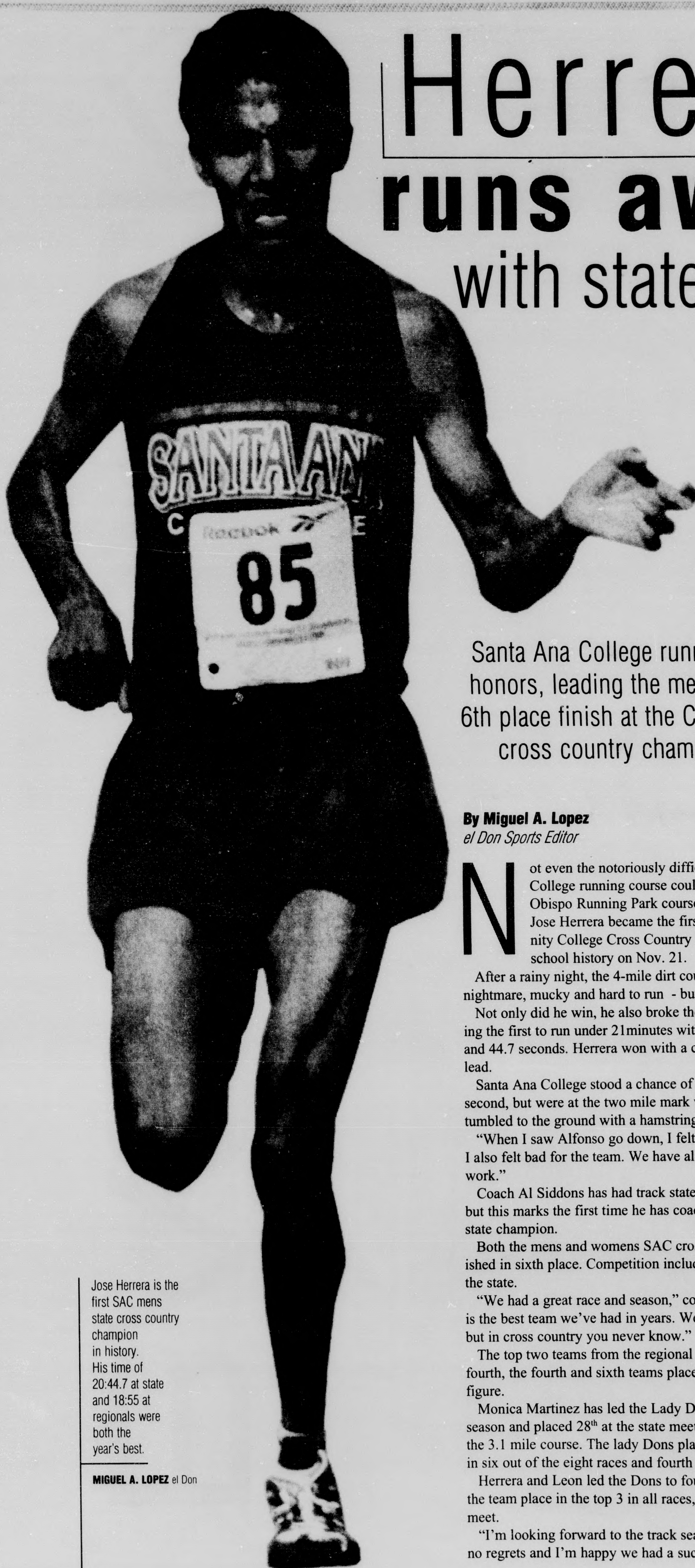
Monday  
December 6

1999  
Inside:

**Soccer**  
Tomas Serna and  
Fernando Rico lead  
Dons to second  
straight state title  
See inside pages

**Football**  
All Americans Camron  
King, David Wilford  
and  
Elia Leai lead Dons to  
the Strawberry Bowl  
See inside pages

**Wrestling**  
Ten Dons make it to  
the State Tournament  
See back page



# Herrera runs away with state title

Santa Ana College runner takes top honors, leading the men's team to a 6th place finish at the California state cross country championships.

By Miguel A. Lopez  
*el Don Sports Editor*

Not even the notoriously difficult Mount San Antonio College running course could outdo the San Luis Obispo Running Park course, where Santa Ana's Jose Herrera became the first California Community College Cross Country State Champion in school history on Nov. 21.

After a rainy night, the 4-mile dirt course became a runner's nightmare, mucky and hard to run - but it did not faze Herrera.

Not only did he win, he also broke the course record, becoming the first to run under 21 minutes with a time of 20 minutes and 44.7 seconds. Herrera won with a convincing 16 second lead.

Santa Ana College stood a chance of finishing first and second, but were at the two mile mark when Alfonso Leon tumbled to the ground with a hamstring injury.

"When I saw Alfonso go down, I felt bad," Herrera said, "but I also felt bad for the team. We have all put in a lot of hard work."

Coach Al Siddons has had track state champions in the past, but this marks the first time he has coached a cross country state champion.

Both the mens and womens SAC cross country teams finished in sixth place. Competition included the top 28 teams in the state.

"We had a great race and season," coach Siddons said. "This is the best team we've had in years. We look great on paper, but in cross country you never know."

The top two teams from the regional finals finished third and fourth, the fourth and sixth teams placed first and second. Go figure.

Monica Martinez has led the Lady Dons throughout the season and placed 28<sup>th</sup> at the state meet with a time of 20:33 on the 3.1 mile course. The lady Dons placed in the top two spots in six out of the eight races and fourth at the regionals.

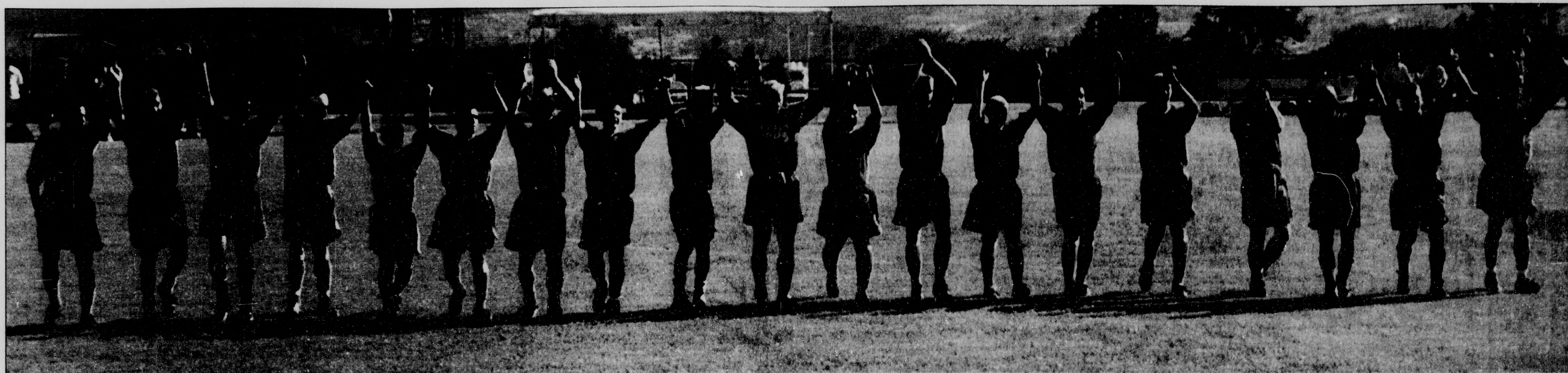
Herrera and Leon led the Dons to four victories and helped the team place in the top 3 in all races, except for the state meet.

"I'm looking forward to the track season," Leon said. "I have no regrets and I'm happy we had a successful season."

Jose Herrera is the first SAC mens state cross country champion in history. His time of 20:44.7 at state and 18:55 at regionals were both the year's best.

MIGUEL A. LOPEZ *el Don*





After each victory the Dons united in the middle of the field, with their arms raised to thank the fans. On Sunday, at the Arco Olympic Training Center, the team showed its appreciation to the fans this time as state champions.

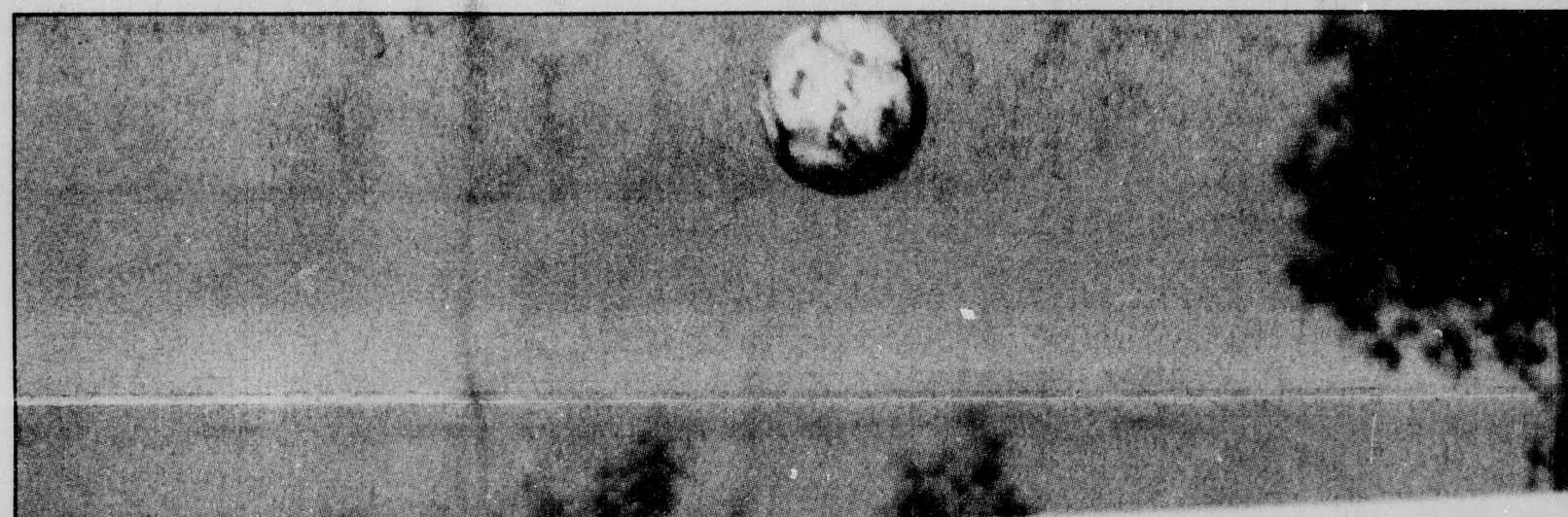
# BACK 2 BACK

The Dons complete a perfect season with a 5-1 victory over Canada College in the state title game

Story and Photos by  
**Miguel A. Lopez**  
*el Don Sports Editor*

1999  
BY THE  
NUMBERS

Chants of "Woop woop, Santa Ana rocks the house," echoed through the Arco Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista last Sunday, as an enthusiastic crowd cheered on the mens soccer team in the state title game against Canada





1999  
BY THE  
NUMBERS

25

**Victories**

0 loses

47

**Game winning**

**streak**

50 unbeaten

146

**Goals in favor**

17 against

2nd

**Consecutive**

State Title

3rd

**State Title**

in last 5 years

6th

**Consecutive**

Orange Empire

Conference Titles

7

**All Conference  
Team Players**

**Andres Arroyo**

**Jose Barillas**

**Keith Buckley**

**Victor Licea**

**Carlos Rangel**

**Fernando Rico**

**Jose Retiz**

by Miguel A. Lopez  
el Don Sports Editor

Chants of "Woop woop, Santa Ana rocks the house," echoed through the Arco Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista last Sunday, as an enthusiastic crowd cheered on the mens soccer team in the state title game against Canada College.

The Dons played to perfection as they won their second consecutive state championship by beating Canada 5-1. With the support of the rowdy crowd, the Dons took an early 2-0 lead. Jose Rangel and Luis Gutierrez scored in the seventh and 20<sup>th</sup> minute, respectfully.

This marked the third time in the last five years that Santa Ana College has won the state title.

The momentum that drove the Dons to win flowed even before the team stepped foot on the field. Before the game, Coach J.P. Frutos asked the team to visualize themselves on a country road - in the distance stood the "gates of opportunity." But to get there, they needed to evade pot holes, rocks and the opposing team.

"The difference is that we know the way," said Frutos, "and it will take us 90 minutes to reach the gates."

At halftime Frutos asked the players to remember what they saw at the other side of the gates and reminded them they were 45 minutes away from those goals.

After SAC was scored against, two minutes into the second half, the crowd again jumped to its feet.

Tournament MVP Fernando Rico scored an unassisted goal nine minutes into the second half to give the Dons a 3-1 lead. He then assisted on Randy Zepeda's goal in the 60<sup>th</sup> minute.

With the title only minutes away, the crowd started the victory celebration early. The audience's energy could be felt across the field. Alex Licea felt the vibes as he dribbled the ball down the field - scoring an unassisted goal with less than three minutes to go - and putting the finishing touch on a 5-1 game and a perfect season.

Santa Ana finished the season a perfect 25-0. It is the first time in school history that a single team has had an undefeated season and captured the state title.

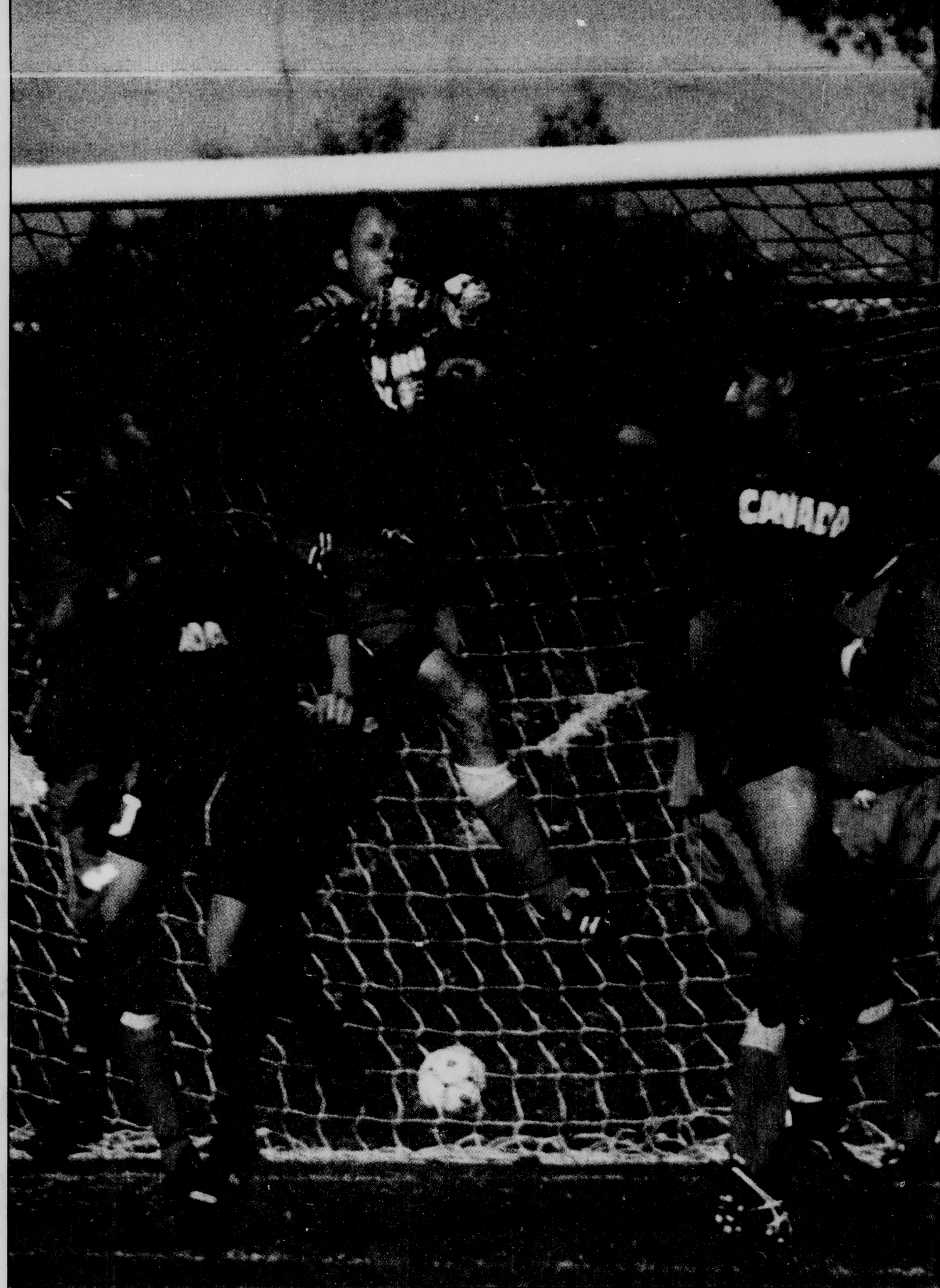
In a recent Orange County Register article, Canada coach Frank Mangiola said his players were not accustomed to teams playing as intelligently as SAC.

Frutos said that the Dons played a smart game all season. "We maintained our game level and stayed focused on goals we had set at the beginning of the season," Frutos said.

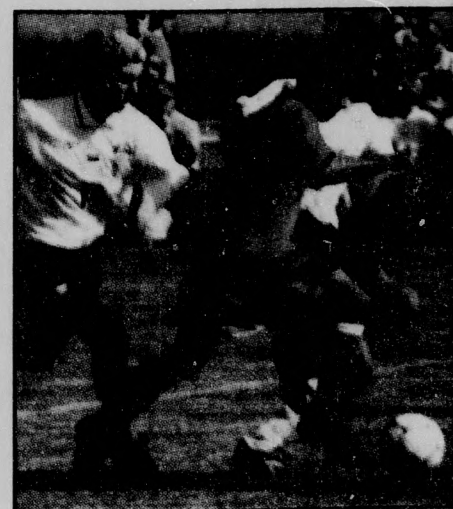
During the season the Dons went almost injury-free. Only one player was out for more than one game. Frutos gives credit to conditioning coach Frank Rea, team doctor Robert Olvera, and SAC's training department.

Last Saturday's semifinal game against Santa Rosa College, which went into two 15-minute overtime periods, was an example of the team's optimum physical condition. Santa Rosa was a tough team that could have worn down any other team. The Dons, however, stood their ground and controlled the game, aside from early missed opportunities.

Sophomore Tomas Serna scored two goals in the 3-1 match against Santa Rosa. He scored the go-ahead goal with less than two minutes left in the first overtime period. Serna led the state with 41 goals, establishing a school record, but did not score in the championship game.



Goal keeper Sasha Addeo had eight saves in the tournament and was a key member of Santa Ana's defense who allowed only 17 goals all season.



Santa Ana's perfect season was due to talented and experienced players. Sasha Addeo's (top) goal keeping skills in front of the goal, Jose Retiz's (middle) defensive attack and Alex Licea's (above) burst of speed were why the team was too much for other teams to handle.



# POWER SURGE

Rookie coach Allan Clinton is turning a team that has endured several mediocre seasons into a legitimate wrestling power, as 10 qualify for state finals.

**By Louis Ponsi**  
*el Don Staff writer*

The Santa Ana Dons are sending 10 wrestlers to the State Finals at San Bruno, climaxing one of their most successful seasons in recent history.

At the South Regionals held at Rio Hondo College Nov. 20, the Dons competed well enough to qualify a wrestler in every weight class - including second place finishes by 133 pound Jose Palomares and 174 pound Bryan Webster.

Heavyweight Rafael Lucero and 149 pound Luis Renteria both finished 4th, while the remainder of the team finished in the top eight of their respective weight classes. They now advance to the state finals.

In the 12 teams competing in the South Regionals, the Dons finished 4th overall, narrowly missing third place by two points.

"I feel really happy with everything that's taken place," said first year coach Allan Clinton, who is leading a team that has endured several mediocre seasons and turned them into a

legitimate powerhouse.

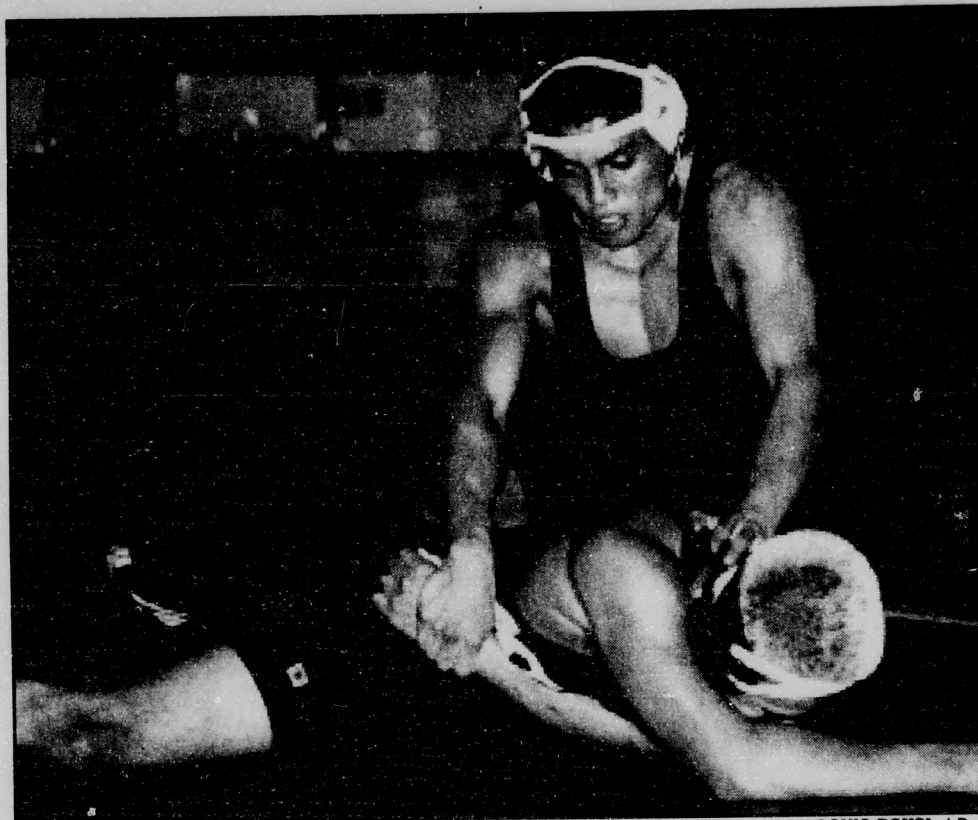
"We set goals as the season went along. Every week you could see the guys getting better and better and I can still see the improvement," said Clinton. "Their techniques and skills have improved. They're just a hard working group of athletes."

Because SAC yearns to stand on the victory platform at the finals, they will need to utilize their improved skill. There is little margin for error.

Rafael Lucero welcomes the opportunity to face the wrestlers who beat him in the regionals, but knows that if he wants to improve his 4th place finish, he'll have to make some changes.

"I want to wrestle harder and not get caught in any throws," said Lucero. "I need to be a little more patient. I was too anxious (in the regionals). I was just shooting and then getting caught."

Wrestling in the state finals will be a new experience for Jose Palomares. The freshman wrestled two consecutive overtime matches in the regionals, defeating the state's No. 1 ranked wrestler in the semi-finals, but fell short in the finals.



LOUIS PONSI el Don

Freshman Jose Palomares beat the state's No. 1 ranked wrestler in the 133 pound weight division.

Palomares is excited about competing at this high level but remains calm.

"It feels good wrestling at this high level of competition," said Palomares.

"I try not to think about it too much or I may make a mistake."

The only Don who has advanced deep into the state finals is returning state champ Bryan Webster.

Webster was unavailable for comment

on his performance in the regionals or the upcoming finals.

Being so young and opening the season with a new coach, there was much uncertainty early on.

No matter what the outcome of the state finals, any questions that have loomed over the heads of the Don wrestlers have been answered, with a resounding slam to the mat.

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# FEATURE

MAJOR STYLES OF TATTOOING

## Bio-Mechanical

A style popularized by illustrator H.R. Giger, usually involves an anatomical flesh intertwined with some technical drawings of machines.

## Black & Grey

This style only uses these two colors and requires the artist to have advanced shading techniques for subtlety.

## Oriental

Big, bold pieces of Oriental images (clouds, dragons, etc.) based on the Ukiyo-e woodblock prints of 18th century Edo-period Japan.

## Portrait

Images taken from photos, best done by an artist who can render realistic photographic images. Usually done in black and grey ink.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1999

SANTA ANA COLLEGE • el Don

PAGE 7

## HUMAN CANVAS

Story and Photos by **Louis Ponsi**  
el Don Staff Writer

Some see it as mutilated flesh, but others call tattooing an art form on permanent display



Sophomore Kavon Pejouhin enjoyed the tattooing procedure and admits he will likely get more.

**W**ith the fury of a dentist's drill, a tiny needle pulsates 90 times per second pushing ink under Esperanza Ruiz's skin

Her reward for enduring what feels like thousands of miniature bee stings is a tattoo; a work of art on a human canvas.

Ruiz recalls the discomfort as minor and a small price to pay for the red tribal fire tattoo that now adorns her ankle.

"I'd been thinking about getting one and been looking at designs for about a year," said the 19-year-old Santa Ana College sophomore. "This is just the beginning. I like the way it looks on my body and I want to get another one on my upper back, near my shoulder."

The earliest evidence of tattooing dates back to ancient Egypt, where archeological proof shows that this practice occurred as far back as 4000 BC, according to "*The History of Tattooing And Its Significance*" published in 1925

Please see TATTO, Page 8



An admiration of '50s pin-up Betty Page prompted Brendon Smith to have her image tattooed on his upper arm.



# Tattoo: students site various reasons for getting inked



LOUIS PONSI el Don

Ben "Lucky" Gamaza has practiced as a tattoo artist for more than five years and has done hundreds of tattoos. The image of the fish on his arm is taken from his mother's artwork.

## Continued from page 7

"They've been used as a symbol of honor, pride, loyalty, and love," said SAC student and tattoo artist Ben Gamaza, who goes by the name "Lucky." "Kings and queens have gotten them to show rank. Hunters have gotten them after a big kill."

Lucky, an art major has practiced his craft for more than five

years and done hundreds of tattoos. He's well aware of the diverse styles that are popular today.

Motivations for shelling out up to \$120 an hour for an image permanently engraved on their body are as diverse and unique as the tattoos themselves.

"A lot of the men want skulls, lions, tigers, and black tribal tat-

toos," said Lucky who is himself decorated on both arms with tribal and spiritual tattoos. "The women all want butterflies, fairies, and hearts."

Tribal style tattoos are popular with both sexes, but particularly with women, who often have flowing vine-like images engraved on their lower backs, according to Lucky.

*"After I got one, it was addicting. It felt like a surge of electricity running through my body."*

-Kavon Pejouhin  
Sophomore

In the tradition of the old sailor tattoos, body art done in classic style, such as a curvy beauty queen on the arm, is also experiencing a nostalgic popularity.

Such is the case with Brendon Smith, whose admiration of '50s pin-up Betty Page prompted him to have the icon's sexy image emblazoned on his upper arm.

For some, the images on their bodies represent their passions.

SAC student Scott Leyva's lifelong love of fantasy movies and books was his inspiration for having an entire forest scene complete with a knight and dragon imprinted on his upper arm.

The dragon is peeking out from behind a tree sneaking up on the knight.

"This is only phase one. I'm going to get more tattoos that go along the lines of what I have now," said Scott, who spent about \$1,000 and 15 hours under the needle. "It's going to be a story. I may show the outcome of what happens to the knight."

Sophomore Kavon Pejouhin finds the tattooing procedure enjoyable and admits that getting tattoos can be habit forming.

"After I got one, it was addicting. It felt like a surge of electricity running through my body," said the 24-year-old communications major.

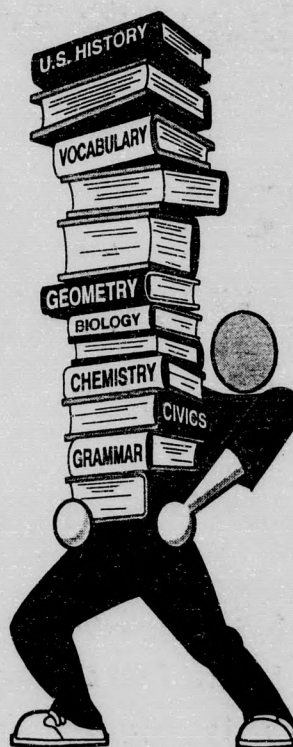
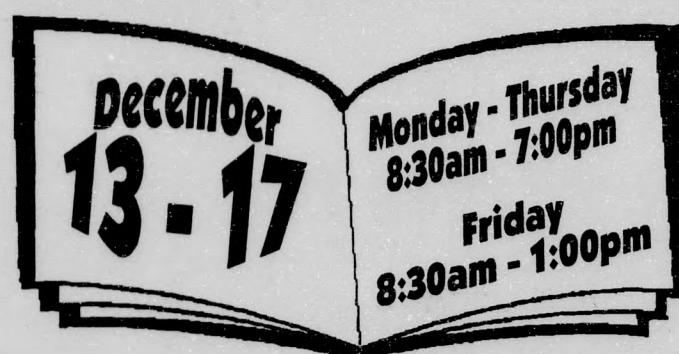
One student admitted that it was the death of his father that may have prompted him to have a large sun tattooed on his shoulder.

"I guess it may have been out of anger, my way of dealing with the loss, to take out the frustration," said Kris Macias.

Tattoo artists have engraved every conceivable image on virtually every part of the body but Lucky says the strangest request by was from a man who wanted his back tattooed post-mortem.

"I guess he is too afraid to get one while he's still alive so he wants me to do this big tribal tattoo on his back after her dies."

# CASH for your BOOKS



**Bring your  
books to the  
Campus  
Bookstore  
Santa Ana  
College**

If a title is not on the list, the reason could be as follows:

The SAC Bookstore has not received a written request from the department for classroom use of the text for the next semester.

It is an old edition, study guide, workbook, lab manual, programmed text, etc.

In a few cases the Bookstore is overstocked and the overstock cannot be sent back to the publishers.

In some cases the Bookstore has bought back the maximum based on what the department feels will be their class enrollment.

"Fill-in" books that can't be reused - books that are cribbed excessively, and cassettes or CDs bought individually will not be bought back.

**Buyback is always held during the week of finals.**

**Our policy is to buy back books that are on the Bookstore list at up to 50% of the current new price. College Book Company will make you their best offer if your title is not on the Bookstore list. Their price is determined by the national market.**

**The textbooks must be the current edition, the correct volume number, in good condition, etc.**



# Tis the season for online shopping

**GIFTS:** Those tired of dreadful lines in stores head to the Internet to do their holiday shopping this year.

By Phat X. Chiem  
Special to the *el Don*

Sam Mix bought Christmas gifts for eight people, birthday presents for five more and some furniture for her own home, all in an hour and a half. Thank cyberspace for e-commerce.

After years of schlepping through packed malls, Mix has turned to the Internet to avoid unruly crowds, frazzled clerks and heavy traffic.

"It's changing my life," declares Mix. "E-commerce is the biggest, greatest thing."

Millions of traditionalists and mainline retailers might disagree. Old-fashioned stores — those with front doors, aisles and human clerks — have been crowded all year, thanks to the booming economy.

Still, the embrace of online shopping by Mix and others is creating a challenge for brick-and-mortar stores as they vie for consumer dollars.

Mall merchants and department stores are beefing up customer service, offering free gift wrapping and giving out deep discounts in an attempt to keep shoppers off-line and in line at the cash registers.

Those are smart strategies in light of the fact that Internet analysts say this holiday season will be the biggest for e-commerce sales. Estimates for online shopping

between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day range from \$4 billion to \$16 billion.

"It's going to be the coming-out year," said Mark Speaker, co-author of the "Complete Idiot's Guide to E-Commerce" and president of Learnlots.com, an Internet service that educates companies about electronic retailing.

Speaker, who estimates holiday online sales will reach \$12 billion, said Web retailers are winning over consumers for three chief reasons: price, convenience and selection. Unlike last year, Speaker said, "e-tailers" have recognized that they need to address such concerns as timely delivery, return policies and security.

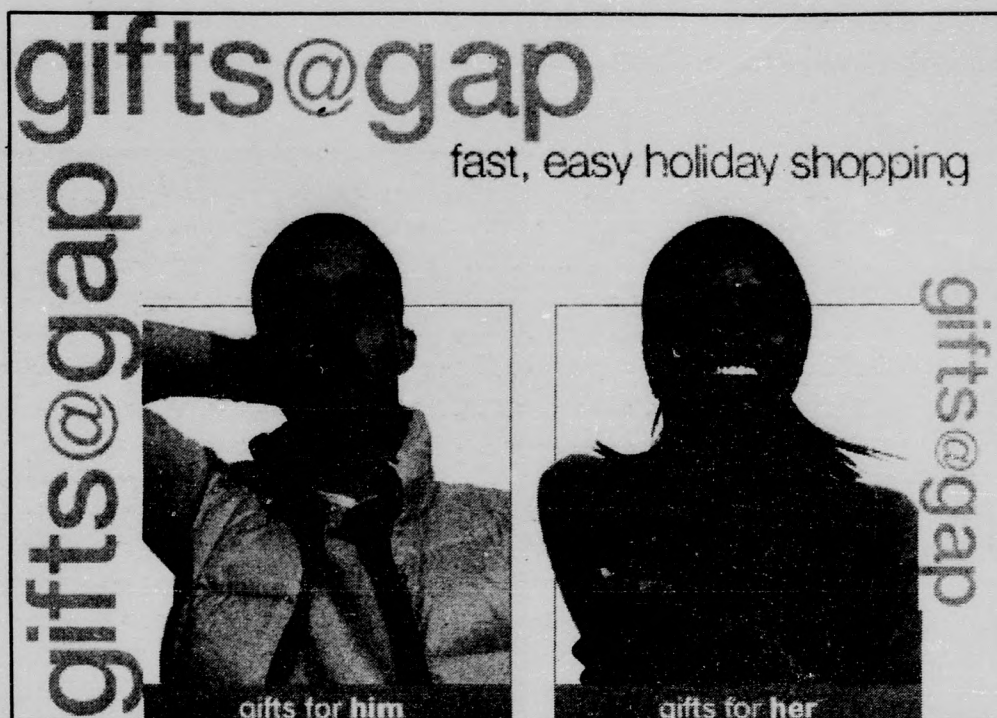
For instance, many online stores now guarantee gift delivery by Christmas.

"Trust has been built on the Web," he said. "I believe next year people are going to think about shopping online first instead of comparing the two experiences."

Not so fast, say brick-and-mortar retailers, who point out that, even with the most optimistic projections, Internet sales will account for only a fraction of the estimated \$185 billion that will be spent in November and December.

According to a consumer survey by Deloitte & Touche and the National Retail Federation, Americans are expected to spend an average of \$849 at traditional stores this season, a 4.3 percent increase over 1998.

"No question, shoppers will be out in force," said Kurt Barnard, president of Barnard's Retail Trend Report in Upper



Websites, like this one for the Gap, offer an array of gift choices online this holiday season. Many find that shopping using the Internet is easier and less time consuming than going to the stores in person.

Montclair, N.J.

Barnard said shopping isn't purely a chore for most people but a form of entertainment. Internet sites can't replicate the sights and sounds of Christmas shopping.

George Whalin, president of Retail Management Consultants in San Marcos, Calif., scoffs at the threat of e-commerce.

"We're not losing sleep over it," Whalin said. "Retailers are focusing on how to maximize their sales on people coming through the doors in the next five weeks."

But many retailers are pumping up sales by plunging into cyberspace with their own sites. In the past year, major companies such as Toys "R" Us, Footlocker, Target and Abercrombie & Fitch have started online stores.

With so many companies catering to the Web-savvy customer, Sam Mix said she hardly steps into a traditional store anymore. She even orders her groceries online via Skokie-based Peapod Inc.

"My gifts are coming in a big brown sleigh that is the UPS truck," she said.

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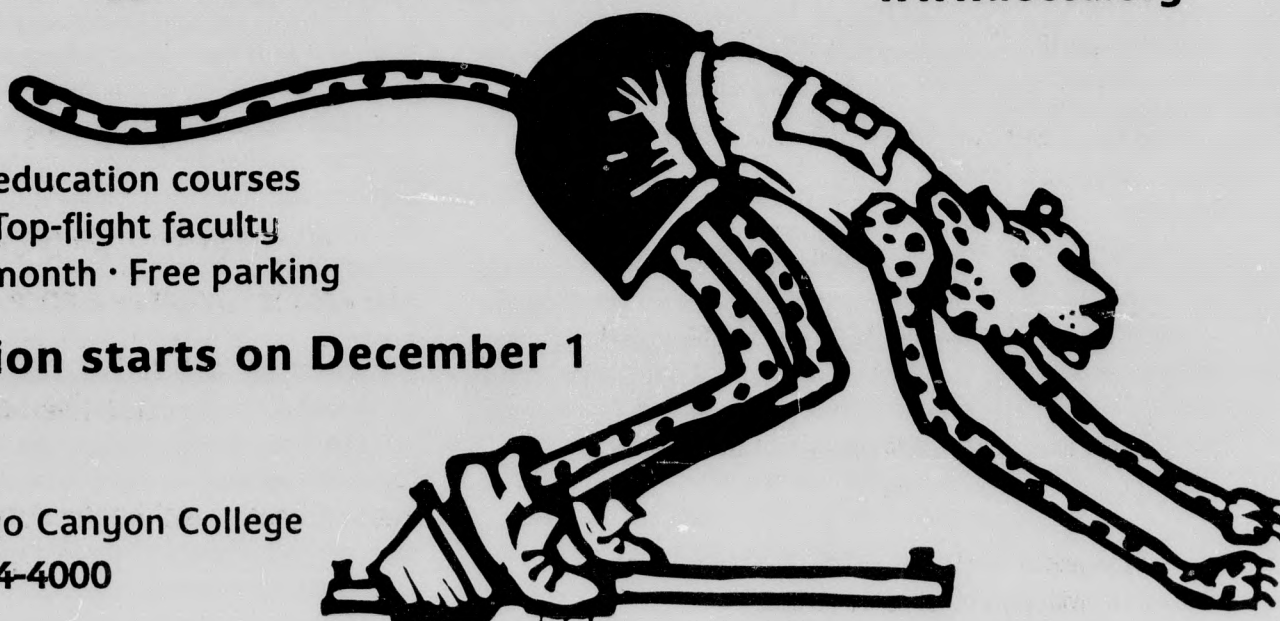
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PAGE 10

SANTA ANA COLLEGE • el Don

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1999



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Are you going to take an intercession class? Why or why not?

*"No I'm not because..they don't have honors classes during intercession...They're a good idea because it helps motivated people to keep going on."*

PAM PRATT  
ENGLISH

*"I'm not going to take one because I just started taking classes here and I would like to rest during my winter break."*

ELVA RUTH FLORES  
NURSING

*"I am going to take an intercession class because I have many classes to go and since I have the time...I think it's a good idea."*

DON CLEVELER  
FIRE SCIENCE

*"I am because I usually work during the summer and this gives me a chance to gain credits... I don't think that math classes are a good idea to take because it's too much information to intake, but general education classes are okay"*

OSCAR PEDROZA  
CHIROPRACTIC

### MAILBOX POLICY

The el Don encourages expression of all views. Letters should be brief and to the point. All letters should include student ID number and may be edited for length and clarity. Letters to el Don may be delivered to room C-201, or mailed to SAC el Don, Mailbox, 17th at Bristol streets, Santa Ana, CA 92706. Include a phone number where you may be reached. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of SAC. Opinions with a byline are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of el Don or Santa Ana College. el Don reserves the right to refuse advertising and does not necessarily subscribe to the views of the advertisers. For el Don advertising rates and information, contact Debi Carr at (714)564-5617. FAX 564-0821.

## STAFF EDITORIAL



Photo Illustration by RICK NGOC HO

# Ho-ho-dough

**MATERIALISM:** With each passing year, the holiday season becomes more commercial.

Every year we hear the mantra, "Christmas is a time for family and togetherness." A nice sentiment, but let's face it, it's no longer true. Christmas has become unrelated to the birth of Christ. It's a time for people to mask their feelings and win loved-ones over with shiny packages on Christmas morning.

Family gatherings have become almost obligatory. Old emotional wounds often surface during the festivities, and the wounded grieve silently to save face in front of their kin. Most can't wait to get back to their daily routines.

During social gatherings, party hosts bring out their best china and warn their children to display their best behavior. Guests are treated to a united, but false, front.

We buy all the cards, over-priced gifts and icicle lights that can fit in our shopping carts. We buy everything in sight just to show that we can afford it. Our relationships are scrutinized as we stand in store aisles, asking ourselves if the recipient is "worth" the size and price of the gift.

Every year we tell ourselves that we won't spend or buy so much next year. Yet here we are again this year - in horrendous lines with millions of other disgruntled shoppers, being waited on by under-

paid temporary employees donning plastic smiles.

Let's face it - the holidays are an excuse to buy everyone we know the cheapest possible gift - wrapped up to look expensive. When we open gifts we've received, is it ever anything we wanted? Unlikely. Again, we fake a smile and shove the gift in the back of the closet or donate it to charity. It's not about what you want, it's about what was convenient for the person to buy for you.

When we shop for others, we spot the stuff that we want for ourselves. We hope somebody will buy them for us, but they don't.

Enough is enough. While we can't ignore the commercialism of

Christmas, we can start being real with each other. Instead of scouring for gifts that our loved-ones will return or hide, ask them what they want. And tell them what you want. Even surprise them with something "cheap" - if they need their car washed, do it for them. If they're feeling lonely, take them out to dinner. With the excess money, let's buy something nice for *ourselves* for a change.

Instead of putting on "the happy mask," let relatives know if they've hurt you. It's the only way the healing process can begin.

Being honest would save time, money and sanity. It would be a Christmas where everyone is truly thankful and happy.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Red Cross turns away gay student

I went to register at Santa Ana College's blood drive in October, and was later informed that I was not allowed to give blood because I am gay. I was also denied copies of the information on why I couldn't give blood, and discriminated against.

My confidentiality was not protected and my privacy was exposed to everyone present at the blood drive. Because of this, I was involved in an argument with a Red Cross worker at the event. She made bias remarks towards me, stereo-typed me and her language was insulting. I was disqualified because I am gay, but this person still thought that she had the right to ask me a private question in public. She asked, "When was the last time you had sex with another male?" The question was irrelevant.

I went to the blood drive with the intention of making a difference by donating blood. I was denied the opportunity to donate because of my sexual preference. The Red-Cross denied me from being a

donor because they claim I'm in a high risk group.

The Food and Drug Administration and the Red Cross say that homosexuals are more at risk of having and getting the AIDS virus. They also say that homosexuals should not be allowed to donate blood. They are making the assumption that homosexuals have more chances of getting this deadly disease. They are making the assumption that because I am gay, I might have AIDS. That's wrong, that's discrimination.

Today we are all at the same risk. Sexuality should not be the reason why someone can't be a donor. According to the Red-Cross, my application was good until I answered "yes" to the question: "Are you a male who's had sex with another male since 1977?" Because I answered "yes" I was turned down. To me, that is discrimination.

Grievance procedures for SAC students says: Rancho Santiago Community College

District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, sex, age, or handicap in its employment or in its educational programs and activities.

I strongly believe that SAC should not tolerate this type of behavior. If there's something that I have learned from SAC and all of its leaders, whether they are teachers, administrators, or other students, is that we should have tolerance and respect towards others. We should not allow an organization that has these type of workers to come into our school and destroy what we have worked so hard for. SAC does not tolerate discrimination.

At one point this country had rules that discriminated against African Americans. These rules were changed by one man, Martin Luther King Jr. The rules that the FDA has and the stereotypes that they make towards homosexuals, will also be changed.

- Jorge Diaz, student



# SPORTS

SAC SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Cross Country**  
Jose Herrera  
State Champion  
Men & Women  
Sixth at State

**Football**  
Elia Laeli - Defensive  
Player of the Year  
Cameron King - Offense  
Player of the Year

**Soccer**  
State Champions  
25-0 Record  
47 game winning streak

**Womens Basketball**  
6-1  
Stephanie Patten is  
averaging 26 ppg.

**Wrestling**  
9-6 Record  
2<sup>nd</sup> in Conference

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1999

SANTA ANA COLLEGE • el Don

PAGE 11

## All-Americans lead Dons



Quarterback Grant Wagner will lead the Dons into its first bowl appearance since 1997 when Santa Ana takes on Cerritos College in the GMC/Pontiac Strawberry Bowl.

JOSEPH YOUNG el Don

**FOOTBALL:** Led by All-American Cameron King, the Dons face Cerritos in the GMC/Pontiac Strawberry Bowl.

By Alex Arreola  
el Don Sports Editor

Santa Ana's season has been a roller coaster ride. Win one, lose one, win three, lose one. The ride stalled, but has returned to the top of the mountain.

Santa Ana's last bowl appearance was in 1997, a 31-17 victory over Antelope Valley in the McDonald's Bowl.

The Dons (7-3) have earned a berth to represent the Orange Empire Conference in the GMC/Pontiac Strawberry Bowl on Dec. 4 at Cerritos College against host Cerritos (7-3).

Both teams boast an explosive offense and a tenacious defense.

The defense has been a staple for the Dons all season and they will have their hands full against All-American honorable mention running back Brian McDonald.

"He is a very elusive back with game-breaking speed," said Dons coach Dave Ogas.

Cerritos is fashioning three All-Americans: McDonald, free safety Ray Ross (first-team), and linebacker Jack Tucker (second-team). Ross is a ferocious hitter and can run with any wide receiver and Tucker will be hounding Don quarterback Grant

Wagner all night.

OEC defensive player-of-the-year and All-American honorable mention lineman Elia Laeli, and All-Conference first-team picks, safety Donny Dymond, cornerback James Farley, and second-team picks Eric Brown, Naisa Fonua, and Brandon Lambert will have to stop a balanced Cerritos offensive attack led by freshman quarterback Doug Baughman in order to secure a victory.

Conference offensive player-of-the-year and first-team All-American, tailback Camron King, who is on a torrid pace, needs only 30 yards to eclipse Keith Luhnnow's single-season rushing record of 1,430 set in 1961. King has rushed 259 times for 1,418 yards in 10 games with one game left.

"Camron should be able to break the record before halftime," said Ogas.

Fullbacks Saul Frausto and All-Conference special teams pick, Joseph Tagaloa provide excellent depth should the Falcon defense take King out of the game. Against Long Beach City College, Tagaloa filled in for an injured King, and rushed for 144 yards in 27 carries. Frausto is a bruising blocker whose speed should not be overlooked.

"Joe (Tagaloa) and Camron will carry the load," said Ogas. "Cerritos has a good set of defensive backs so we will try to keep it on the ground as much as possible."

All-Conference first-team picks David Wilford (All-American honorable



JOSEPH YOUNG el Don

Jose Perez has kicked two decisive field goals this year. His game-winning kick against then No. 1 ranked Palomar College helped turn the season around for the 7-3 bowl bound Dons.

mention) and Joel Barker should open some massive holes for King and provide adequate protection for Wagner.

Wagner, an All-Conference second team pick, has had a phenomenal conference season, completing 121 of 191 attempts for 1,593 yards and 12 TD's.

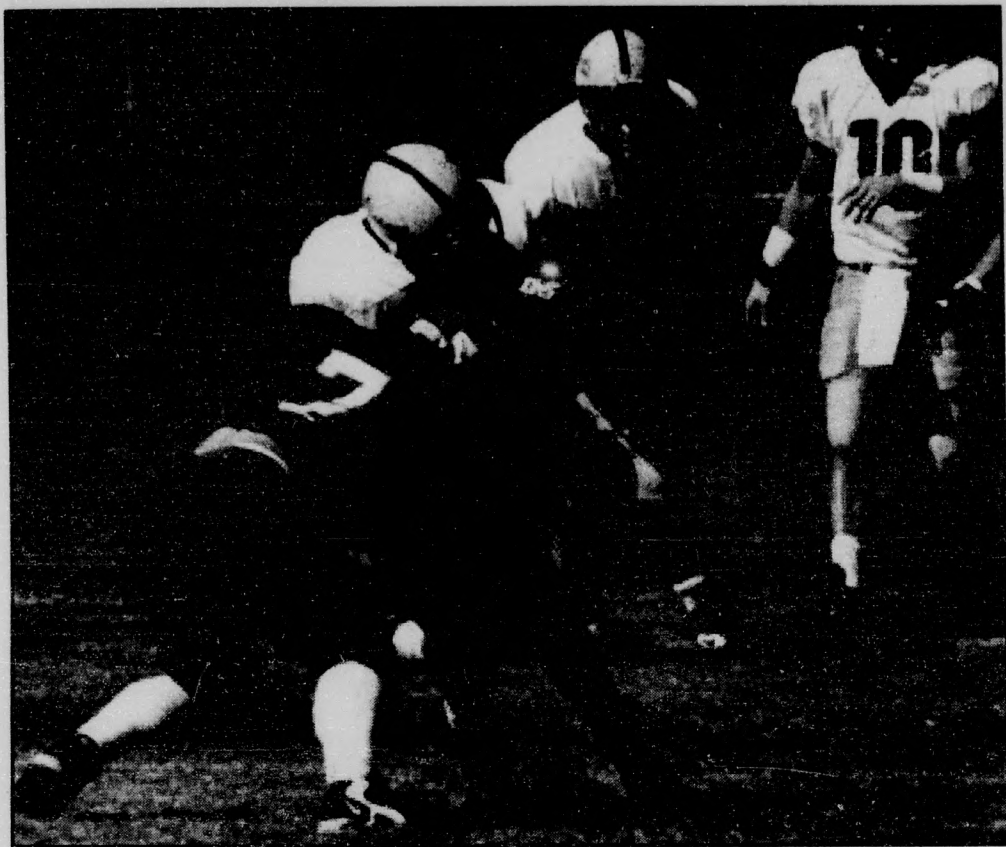
Fellow All-Conference first-team pick Jeremiah Armendariz (59 receptions, 768 yards) will provide some problems

for the Falcon secondary. Armendariz is averaging 13 yards per reception. Sophomore receiver Art Tiscareno is a deep threat who is averaging close to 15 yards per reception in the last three games. Should flanker Derrick Barnes return to form, the Falcons secondary could be in for a long night.

Santa Ana is riding an emotional high

Please see DONS, page 12





JOSEPH YOUNG el Don

Santa Ana's defense is a big reason why the Dons are dominating the time of possession.

## Dons: advance on tie breaker

Continued from page 11

winning a pair of thrillers over Palomar College and Riverside College, Palomar being ranked in the national top 10 by Cal-Hi magazine.

The Dons advanced on a tiebreaker having defeated Palomar during conference play.

Cerritos is no slouch and the Dons have to play hard for four quarters in order to come out on top. "They have a powerful defense and that should add to a great match," said Ogas.

Santa Ana's offense is averaging over 300 yards of total offense per game, an offense that Cerritos hasn't seen all season.

"Cerritos is in for a surprise," said Ogas. "Our offense will be as balanced as always and try to keep their defense out of sync."

A 7 p.m. start marks the first night-game of the season.

The Santa Ana roller coaster is on the top, and on Dec. 4, it will be a ride that Cerritos will never forget.



The Extended Opportunity Programs and Services is a comprehensive support and retention program for community college students who are economically and educationally disadvantaged. EOPS provides special support and assistance to students seeking a college degree or a vocational certificate for employment.

Qualified students may receive the following:

- ◆ Priority Registration
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ Tutoring Services
- ◆ CARE Program for single parents
- ◆ Transfer Assistance/Fee Waivers
- ◆ Student Activity Fee Waiver
- ◆ Book Assistance

Applications for the Spring 2000 semester will be available from **January 3 – February 11, 2000**. For further information, please call 714-564-6232 or stop by the EOPS office located in the Johnson Center, Room U-101.

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off retail\*

December 1 - 17

Monday-Thursday 7:45am - 8:30pm

Friday 7:45am - 4pm

\*all items on sale except textbooks, calculators, food and drinks



25% off clothing, backpacks, office supplies and gift items

30% off millennium and dated items